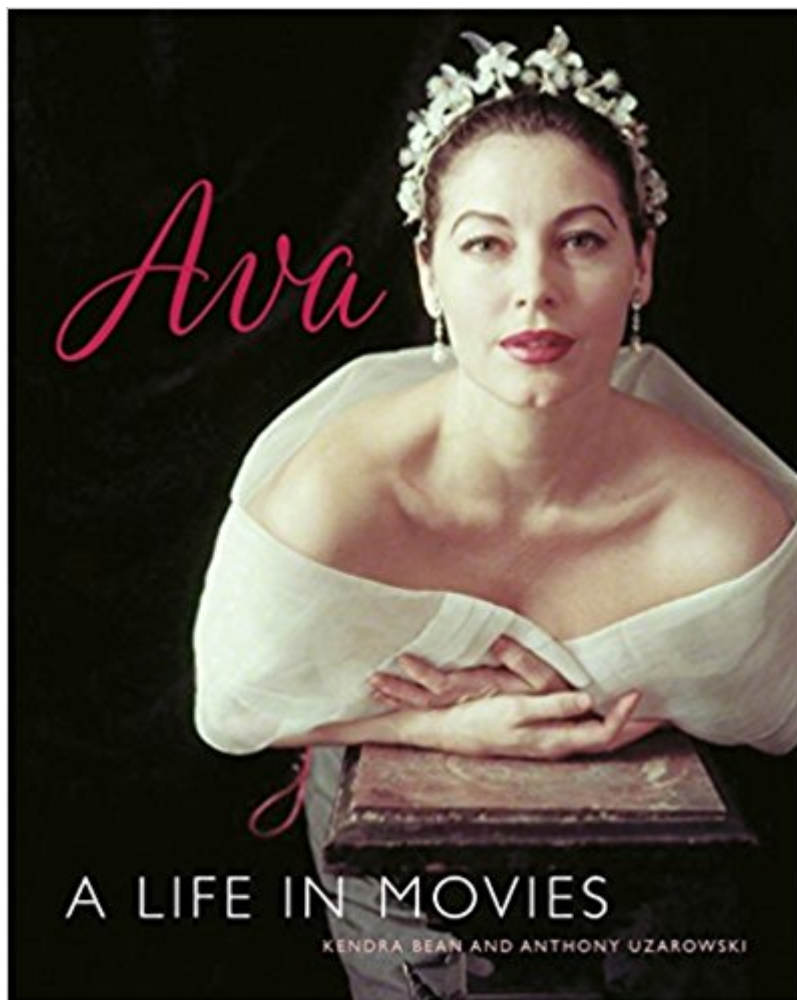


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# Ava Gardner: A Life In Movies



## Synopsis

Renowned for her screen performances, down-to-earth personality, and love affair with Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner left an indelible mark on Hollywood history. Her adventurous life story is told through authoritative text and hundreds of photos in *Ava: A Life in Movies*. Ava is an illustrated tribute to a legendary life. Authors Kendra Bean and Anthony Uzarowski take a closer look at the Academy Award-nominated actress's life and famous screen roles. They also shed new light on the creation and maintenance of her glamorous image, her marriages, and friendships with famous figures such as Ernest Hemingway, John Huston, and Tennessee Williams. From the backwoods of Grabtown, North Carolina to the bullfighting rings of Spain, from the MGM backlot to the Rome of *La Dolce Vita*, this lavishly illustrated biography takes readers on the exciting journey of a life lived to the fullest and through four decades of film history with an iconic star.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"From the striking cover image to photographers' contact sheets, and even a late '40s selfie, many are rare and/or candid, going beyond stills and publicity photos, although those are well-represented too, and all are beautifully printed. Sinatra family scrapbooks and local NC newspaper files are just two of the sources tapped. I can't imagine how many hours research and permissions must have taken, and the results are spectacular...Whatever your current level of Ava awareness, there is an abundance of fascinating material in *Ava: A Life in Movies* to guarantee any reader's enjoyment and edification." — Paula's Cinema Club

Kendra Bean is a historian and curator. She is the author of *Vivien Leigh: An Intimate Portrait*. She runs the popular classic film blog [VivAndLarry.com](http://VivAndLarry.com). Her writing has also been published by the British Film Institute and *Bright Lights Film Journal*, and she has lectured on cinema at the National Portrait Gallery (London), Victoria and Albert Museum, the BFI, the San Francisco Presidio Officers' Club, and the Walt Disney Family Museum. She lives in London. Anthony Uzarowski has an MA in Film Studies from University College London. He has written articles and essays on different aspects of classic and contemporary cinema, with his work published in *The Guardian*, *Film International*, and *Queerty*. He lives in London, where he works at the British Library.

My sister and I thoroughly relished the insights into our favorite star of the golden era of Hollywood. Her story is worthy of a movie! We especially loved the photographs that document milestones in her life. Ava Gardner remains an icon of film beauty, mystique, and performance. Who could ever forget her dancing with the Spanish gypsies in *The Barefoot Contessa*! Thank you for this wonderful book!

Could not wait for this book...Ava Gardner is one of my favorite CLASSIC ACTRESSThank you

Beautiful photos...some I've never seen before. Good text for a coffee table book.

Love the book! Beautiful photographs accompany Ava's fascinating life story. The cover is marvelous - perfect coffee-table book to spark conversation about this beautiful woman!

I had the pleasure of meeting Ava Gardner in the winter of 1968 at the Regency Hotel in New York City. I went with a friend who knew her and needless to say I was extremely nervous. But she proved to be very friendly, open, honest, often self-deprecating, occasionally profane and, as this book paints her, a wonderful gal, beautiful inside and out. I think she'd approve of the sincere way the authors paint her here. The pictures, needless to say, are gorgeous (did this woman EVER take a bad picture? I don't think so!). My only problem with the book was the lack of a filmography. The authors speak of the 20 bit parts she did early in her stardom but we never learn what they were unless we run to the IMDB. I wish there had been a complete list of the short subjects she appeared in, the early bit parts leading to her stardom and where we could find her in them, plus all the starring roles with cast and credits. Plus the radio and TV appearances she did. This sort of thing

was handled very well in another book - LANA: THE MEMORIES, THE MYTHS, THE MOVIES. It's the stuff that film buffs thrive on and can always use as a reference guide and I was disappointed not to find it in a book called AVA: A LIFE IN MOVIES. Also I found two photo errors - the large color photo on page 204 is from 55 DAYS AT PEKING not THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JUDGE ROY BEAN ( The same costume is worn by Ava earlier in the book on page 190 and correctly identified!). And on page 221 that publicity photo was taken for the 1974 film EARTHQUAKE and used in the poster art for the film and not as stated in the book "Ava in 1975". Nonetheless this is a beautiful book and a great tribute to the star. I highly recommend it but if it goes into a second printing I suggest the authors take out the 5 page bibliography that no one will read and substitute a detailed filmography.

Ava Gardner remains one of the most beautiful, vibrant stars in the history of Hollywood and this gorgeously illustrated and insightfully written biography adds immeasurably to her singular legacy. The prose is consistently honest, yet respectful. Authors Kendra Bean and Anthony Uzarowski explore Gardner's sometimes tumultuous life yet avoid cheap sensationalism. They genuinely want to share the facts of her story and illuminate her place in the cinematic firmament. The photos are otherworldly, especially the early portraits before she received the glamour treatment. It's easy to understand why she was sometimes described as "the world's most beautiful animal." She's someone that other legendary beauties, such as Vivien Leigh and Elizabeth Taylor, revered as a stunning woman. This book is a must-have for anyone with even a passing interest in classic Hollywood.

I have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of this book. I pre-ordered it and received it in a timely manner. I had planned on reading it cover to cover, but found that I just can't. Because it seems every page has more gorgeous photos that need to be savored before proceeding to the next page. This is a book that I will treasure and also one that I will keep in mind as a gift for anyone with an appreciation of the golden age of Hollywood. This makes me wish that more stars of that era could be researched and given this treatment. Anne Sheridan, anyone?

A beautiful and long overdue tribute to this screen legend.

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